

TECHNO HUMANITIES 2021–2023

Press Text

TECHNO HUMANITIES is a three-year multidisciplinary research project consisting of exhibitions, publications and public programs. Conceived by MUSEION director Bart van der Heide, it is the young museum's most extensive experiment to date, involving all staff members and regional stakeholder communities. It permeates every part of the institution with an atmosphere of creative dialogue and debate.

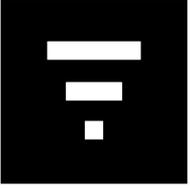
TECHNO HUMANITIES explores the urgent, existential questions of what it is to be a global citizen in the present-day dependency between ecology, technology and economy. It calls for a new understanding of the humanities that is not ego driven but shared among living and non-living entities.

The first chapter of *TECHNO HUMANITIES*, entitled *TECHNO*, was held between 9 September 2021 and 18 April 2022 and gravitated around the topics of freedom, exhaustion and compression. The research featured an exhibition that explored the impact of electronic music outside its subcultural domain for the first time. The second chapter, *Kingdom of the Ill*, runs between 30 September 2022 and 5 April 2023 and addresses the power dynamics that today constitute a healthy or unhealthy body.

The individual projects of *TECHNO HUMANITIES* are accompanied by readers edited by Bart van der Heide, together with guest editors, and published by Hatje Cantz: *TECHNO*, *GLOBALIZATION*, *PANDEMIC* (published in 2021) and *Kingdom of the Ill* (published in autumn 2022).

TECHNO HUMANITIES is not only an exhibition series, but also a think tank and an institutional manifestation of an ethics of practice and solidarity. An international team of thinkers and practitioners develop and deepen the topics of *TECHNO HUMANITIES* and connect the chapters with alternating research teams. At the same time, projects feature active constituency building, regional representation and partnerships. *TECHNO HUMANITIES* positions MUSEION as a civic institution that promotes and fosters perspectives on knowledge production, responsibility and engagement that are globally significant as well as regionally relevant.

Bart van der Heide: "MUSEION as a young organization has the opportunity to create new structures faster than more established institutions can, and to test their effectiveness in order to create conditions for the museum of the twenty-



first century. The project *TECHNO HUMANITIES* requires a *re-tooling* of the institution within a global landscape. For MUSEION this is not a theoretical or philosophical discussion alone. As museums for modern and contemporary art have always operated within the power relations that constitute civic institutions, they can investigate and change these relations from within. ‘Practice what you preach’, for me, is at the heart of the identity crisis that museums are currently experiencing.”

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